

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66620  
DRAFTED BY:ARA/CAR:JETHYDEN/IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL  
APPROVED BY:THE SECRETARY  
ARA/LA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER  
ARA:MR LUERS  
S/S-RGAMBLE  
EA:WGLEYSTEEEN (KOREA ONLY)  
IO:SWLEWIS  
S STAFF

----- 070625  
O R 300046Z JUL 76 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188800

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, TD, US, UN

SUBJECT:COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE  
SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM  
THE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS. IT IS NOT  
REPEAT NOT PLANNED TO SEND SIGNED ORIGINALS. BEGIN TEXT:

2. DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

I REGRET THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US  
TO GET TOGETHER LAST MONTH BUT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE  
CONSIDERATIONS WHICH PREVENTED A MEETING. I LOOK FORWARD  
TO A VISIT WHENEVER OUR SCHEDULES WILL PERMIT.

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IN THE MEANTIME, I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE WITH YOU TWO ISSUES  
OF IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO  
COME UP IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE UN GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY AND AT THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN

TO US ARE THE QUESTIONS OF PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE TO US AND, WE BELIEVE, TO ALL NATIONS WHO SHARE OUR DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS AND VALUES. LET ME RESTATE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION.

ON PUERTO RICO, OUR POLICY IS BASED ON COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO APPROVED THEIR CONSTITUTION AND COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN 1952 AND REAFFIRMED THAT CHOICE IN A 1967 REFERENDUM. THE UNITED NATIONS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND REMOVED PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN 1953. WE ASSURED THE UNITED NATIONS AT THAT TIME THAT, IF THE PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED.

IN VIEW OF THIS, DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS BY ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR ASSEMBLY WOULD BE AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. THE UNITED STATES CAME INTO POSSESSION OF VARIOUS NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY AND EACH HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHOOSE THE COURSE IT WISHED TO FOLLOW. THE PHILIPPINES CHOSE INDEPENDENCE (1947); HAWAII, STATEHOOD; AND PUERTO RICO, A SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. WHICH CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, ANY OUTSIDE DISCUSSION OF THIS RELATIONSHIP CAN ONLY BE OFFENSIVE TO US AND THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. PRESIDENT FORD MADE THIS POINT WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WHEN HE VISITED PUERTO

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RICO IN JUNE WHEN HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INCLINED TO INTERVENE IN OUR FREELY DETERMINED RELATIONS SHOULD KNOW THAT SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES. I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND OUR STRONG FEELINGS IN THIS MATTER.

IN VIEW OF THE INFLUENCE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND OF YOUR EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP WITH PUERTO RICO, YOU ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION OF THE PUERTO RICO STATUS QUESTION BY THOSE WHO MAY WISH TO RAISE IT IN

THESE BODIES FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. I HOPE I CAN LOOK  
FORWARD TO YOUR ACTIVE COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD.

WITH REGARD TO KOREA, WE DO NOT, AND WE BELIEVE MOST  
U.N. MEMBERS DO NOT, WISH TO SEE THE KOREAN  
ISSUE BECOME AGAIN A WASTEFUL AND CONTENTIOUS  
CONTROVERSY USELESSLY DIVERTING THE ENERGIES OF THE UNGA.

HOWEVER, IF IMPORTANT GROUPS WITHIN THE UN MEMBERSHIP  
ACCEDE TO PRESSURES TO ENDORSE THE NORTH KOREAN  
POSITION - SUCH AS ABOLISHING THE ARMISTICE MACHINERY OR  
ALTERING THE MILITARY BALANCE WHICH HAVE PRESERVED PEACE  
FOR 23 YEARS - IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT WE WILL BE  
FACED WITH A CHALLENGE IN THE UNGA TO WHICH WE WILL BE  
OBLIGED TO RESPOND ENERGETICALLY. FOR THIS REASON, I  
BELIEVE YOU WOULD DO A SERVICE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN  
THAT AREA BY ADVOCATING THAT STATEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL  
FORA ON THIS ISSUE EMPHASIZE ONLY THE NEED FOR A  
CONCILIATORY POSTURE BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED  
AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE TO WHICH THEY AGREED  
IN 1972. ON JULY 22 I PUBLICLY RENEWED MY PROPOSAL FOR  
A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA SUGGESTING  
THAT IT TAKE PLACE THIS FALL AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS  
BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CAREFUL  
AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSAL AS IT  
MAY RELATE TO FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS  
ISSUE. AMBASSADOR FAY WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TEXT  
OF MY PROPOSAL.

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SINCE THERE IS WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN A WIDE  
RANGE OF VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, I WOULD  
APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING CONTENTIOUS  
POSITIONS FROM EMERGING ON EITHER ISSUE AT COMING  
MEETINGS, IN THE FIRST CASE BY AVOIDANCE OF THE ISSUE  
ALTOGETHER, AND IN THE SECOND BY THE ADVOCACY OF A  
CONSTRUCTIVE MINIMAL POSITION WHICH CAN BE THE BASIS FOR  
CONCILIATION. RESPECTFULLY, HENRY A. KISSINGER.  
END TEXT.

4. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO TREAT FOREGOING AS PRIVILEGED,  
PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SECRETARY AND RECIPIENT.  
EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCOURAGE GOTT FROM RELEASE IF  
ISSUE IS RAISED.

5. YOU SHOULD HAVE PRESIDENT'S PUERTO RICO SPEECH  
(STATE 159509) AVAILABLE IN EVENT THERE IS INTEREST  
IN SOURCE OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT TO WHICH MESSAGE  
REFERS.

KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 15 SEP 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, PFOR, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-C  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE188800  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:**  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** P840089-2169  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaepom.tel  
**Line Count:** 165  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** LOCK1  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PSDC, TD, US, UN, UNGA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (WILLIAMS, ERIC EUSTACE)  
**To:** PORT OF SPAIN INFO USUN NY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006